



# The Bulletin

75th Division (Exercise), Houston, Texas

December 1995

## HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

### Organizational Day, Big Success

By MAJ Larry Boyd

Organizational Day was a great day for the 75th Division (Exercise).

Having the picnic at the unit created a lot of participation from every one. It also made the families more familiar with the soldier's surroundings, which made them feel more a part of the unit. Many spouses said they no longer feel awkward at the unit activities. This truly is the goal of the Family Support Group; to bridge the gap between mission and family.

A special thanks to Professor Carlos Monsanto, Ph.D. who lecture on the importance of the Hispanic culture. Dr. Monsanto also provided several hours of musical entertainment that was well received.

There were more than 40 volunteers from the Family Support Group. The Houston Chapter of the American Red Cross had another 20 volunteers as did the Hospital Corporation of America. This does not include

the many soldiers of the unit who volunteered their help in preparing and setting up.

Some unit members donated prizes as well as other businesses. Continental Airlines provided the grand prize, a trip for two anywhere in the continental United States, (CONUS).

Most participants left the picnic better informed than when they arrived.

The Family Support Group made \$813 from the sale of chance tickets, candy bars and the world famous Dunking Booth. Half of this goes to Project Uplift through the Red Cross, and the other half will help with the on going expenses of the FSG.

Another big event of the picnic was the membership booth. The FSG was able to get membership/volunteers status forms filled out on many new members as well as update old forms. Some members have a lot of time to volunteer, others are limited. However, each person has something to add to the FSG at the 75th.

**MISSION READY  
OCT 96'**

*The NCO's Responsibility is  
Training, Training, & More  
Training.*

**Take Care of Our  
Soldiers**

CSM Holland

If you wish to assist with the FSG in any way contact Sandy Blackerby at (713) 367-1615. There will be volunteer training sessions after the first of the year.. There are some sessions planned for the weekends.

Once again, a big THANKS to all who participated, donated, or assisted with the picnic. Without the generosity of all who helped

and the achieve participation, the picnic would not have been as entertaining or as successful as it was. The only problem now is the great challenge to make next year's picnic bigger and better.

### 1ST Battalion Earns Praise for OC Course

By 1LT (P) Marotto

Members of the First Battalion spent September 24 to September 30 at Fort Polk, LA conducting the 75th Div (E) Observer Controller Course.

LTC Price commended Major DeLeon (the Project Officer), and the instructors and support personnel for performing an outstanding job. The First Battalion instructors were highly qualified, motivated, and were also evaluated by the RTT and JFRE team. Major Moss, RTT Team Chief for the Second Brigade stated, "The overall course was a success. The block of instructions met the standards outlined in the OC Training Support Package".

Colonel Funkhouser presented the outstanding student award to the Third Battalion's 1LT Zimmerman, for scoring a 100% on the final exam. First Battalion's own SFC Baxter scored a 98% and CPT Hurley scored a 97%. Colonel Funkhouser also awarded the outstanding instructor awards to Third Battalion's, 1LT Potts, and Third Brigades Major Holland's.

Major General Roberts visited the OC course and watched as a student presented an After Action Report (AAR). MG Roberts appeared to be pleased with the students presentation.

The First Battalion has now performed three OC courses in



**MG Roberts and LTC Price with 1st BN**

twelve months. The OC course will now be rotated among the Brigades. The Third Brigade will conduct the next OC course at Fort Hood, TX in March 1996.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### "All I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS.."

By Chaplain Duncan

There is an old song that repeats the above phrase and adds to the continued refrain, "my two front teeth." I suppose if you having difficulty eating or you believe your appearance could be enhanced, two front teeth would be very important. When you think about your wants for Christmas or in the broader context for life, what do you really want?

Much of our economy in America is driven by "wants". Please notice it is wants not needs. It seems the more affluent we become, the greater our needs become and usually our wants increase. The disciplined and spiritually matured person must address the broader issue of stewardship. What are my responsibilities to the community at large as I assess my wants? Why does it matter if I consume more than a fair share of the energy resources in the world? What happens when I allow my selfishness to drive me to take measures that cut others income? These and other questions are of tremendous importance if we are sincere about being just in our world.

At Christmas, one of the joys is giving to others. Our gifts that last may not be

tangible. I challenge you to find ways to express your joy and thankfulness without being driven by materialism. Gifts are great to give and receive, but they must be kept within sensible parameters.

May this holiday season be the best you have had!

### VETERANS DAY 1995

In this final year of the 50th anniversary commemoration of World War Two, Veterans Day

provides a golden opportunity to recall the sacrifice and selfless service of our veterans who served in that war. About eight million veterans of World War Two-nearly half of those who served in it - remain alive today. This is our last opportunity to involve so many of them in our commemoration of the war. It is also our last opportunity to thank so many of them.

Our national tradition of honoring American veterans on a special day began one year after World War One had ended. On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that each November 11 was to be commemorated as "Armistice Day," a day of remembrance to honor the 116,000 Americans who had died in the World War. The World War-that's what we called World War One. Sometimes, in our idealism, we called it the "war to end wars". Of course, we could not know that just two decades later another war would engulf the world. That war, World War Two, would claim four times as many American lives as World War One had claimed. When the Germans invaded Poland in 1939, the world entered a holocaust unparalleled in world history-before or since.

#### Attention Brigades!

**We need your stories, Letters to the Editor, photographs, with complete captions are invited and may be sent to the Editor at the above address. Thanks!**  
**MAJ Boyd, PAO**

Never before had war been waged by so many people, over so much of the globe, with such loss of life and destruction of property. Although, 90 million troops from both sides took part in the war; 17 million of them - nearly one out of five- were consumed by it. Another 18 million -civilians-died as a direct result of it. We'll never know the precise total of soldier and civilians wounded and missing. America mustered more than 16-1/2 million troops to battle on many fronts. When the war ended in 1945, 400,000 of them had lost their lives.

In 1954, Armistice Day was redesignated "Veterans Day." First conceived to recognize those veterans who died in World War One, the observance now was given a broader scope: to honor all American veterans, living and dead, in whatever war or period of peace they served.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I ask all you who are veterans to stand and be recognized. Look around you. Who are the veterans of World War One? Who are the veterans of World War Two? Who are the veterans of Korea? Who are the veterans of Vietnam? Who are the veterans of the Persian Gulf? Perhaps you can tell the difference by the wrinkles on some faces and the smooth skin on others. Perhaps you can tell the difference by the medals they wear. But you cannot tell the difference by their devotion to duty and their love of country. You cannot tell the difference, for there is no difference.

Look in their eyes. Whatever war they served in, you see a tear for fallen comrades, and you see hope for lasting peace. Let us look into their eyes and let us say to our veterans, we are a grateful nation - we remember.

## The Bulletin

In honoring American veterans of World War Two, we honor all American veterans. For they were, and are, made of the same stuff; they were, and are, equally passionate in their patriotism and love of liberty.

The tribute we pay to our veterans of World War Two is not enough. It never can be enough. With their lives before them, they left everything - their families, their loved ones, the serenity and security of their homes - to fight for a just cause. They departed on a journey to places they had never heard of, to confront dangers they could not imagine. But they never wavered or faltered. And when they were done, our liberties and our homes were safe again. We can never say it too many times: We are the children of your sacrifice, and we are grateful.

they are factory workers. They are 26 million Americans living today who served in the armed services, and they are the more than one million who have died in America's wars.

Most of these veterans are unsung heroes, ordinary citizens. Their deeds have never been chronicled. Some of them only recently received recognition for heroic deeds they performed over 50 years ago. They carried the torch, then passes it on to us. Carrying that torch, young, inexperienced Americans become seasoned soldiers. Seasoned soldiers, like the ones who took Iwo Jima, held Bastogne, and crossed the Rhine. Seasoned soldiers, like the ones who eventually helped their former enemies to achieve peace and prosperity.

Those veterans who return they served in, you see a tear for a fallen comrades, and you see hope for lasting peace. Let us look into their eyes and let us say to our veterans, we are a grateful nation-- we remember.

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We can never say too many times: We are the children of your sacrifice, and we are grateful. General Douglas MacArthur spoke of the American soldier as "one of the world's noblest figures." Yet, what sets apart the veterans we honor today? How do we identify them? In truth, our veterans come from the heart of America itself.

Veterans are black... and they are white; they are of every race and ethnic heritage. They are men, and they are women. They are Christians, they are Muslims, they are Jews. They are fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters. They are neighbors, down the street or right next door. They are teachers in our schools,

## First Battalion Soldier Does Community Service

Staff Sergeant Carlos Johns, and his fellow Houston Police Department colleagues, recently played a basketball game with the Aldine Night High School basketball team.

The game was billed as the Top Cops (HPD) versus the Bad Boyz (Aldine Night High School), and was played at the Aldine Senior High gymnasium. Although the Top Cops had a much older lineup, they did prevail, beating the Bad Boyz 47-46.

One of the purposes of the game was to foster better relations between the students and the Police Department. The Aldine ISD developed the Night High School as an alternative school for those students who have previously dropped out of school, work full-time, are pregnant and or have children (free child care is provided by the district at an off campus site).

SSG Johns played a balanced game scoring and passing off assists a la Michael Jordan. SSG Johns, though winded at the end of the game, appeared to enjoy the game. The faculty, students, and parents also enjoyed the game.

### **Family support is focus of USAR training academies**

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Family Support Groups and family readiness training will again be the focus of the U.S. Army Reserve in 1996 as they open for classes for the fourth year of USAR Regional Family Program Academies.

This unique training opportunity is designed for volunteers and key military and civilian personnel associated with family programs. It will help improve the quality of life for Reserve families, help them perform their peace time mission, and prepare them for mobilization. The training is open to participants from other major commands.

A wide range of standardized courses are now being offered at Family Program Academies throughout the United States.

Courses include: Activity Planning, Family Assistance Centers, How to Organize a Family Support Group, FSG Newsletters, Mobilization Exercises, and Telephone Tree. Some course are tailored to specific audiences, i.e., the role of the commander.

The training is designed to best meet the needs and interests of students and assist them in developing and/or improving their unit level family programs. It allows students to select from a wide range of classes, network and learn from each other. Experience volunteers training volunteers is a key element of the success of the academies.

Additional information on the 1996 schedule and locations will be available after December 1995. For more information, call Betty McIver or Jane Barnard at Headquarters, U.S. Army Reserve Command in Atlanta, GA, toll-free 1-800-359-8483, extension 8473 or 8488.

### **Handbook for veterans, families revised for 1995**

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The best way to get current information about veterans benefits and claims is to contact the nearest VA regional office. The next best way is to order the newly revised, updated handbook Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents.

Published by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the 111-page handbook describes VA benefits, including medical care, education disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. It also explains requirements for eligibility and outlines claims procedures.

The handbook also includes the latest information on disability compensation for Persian Gulf veterans who suffer from chronic disabilities from undiagnosed illnesses.

A list of where to go for help includes addresses and telephone numbers for all VA offices, medical centers, national cemeteries, counseling centers, and other facilities.

To buy a copy of the handbook, send a request for GPO stock number 051-000-00205-9 with a check or money order for \$3.25 payable to Superintendent of Documents to: U.S. government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325. To order by credit card, phone (202) 512-1800. Orders can also be Faxed to (202) 512-2250

### **Shopping Extension Looks Doom**

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WASHINGTON- It appears the reservist will lose again in their battle for unlimited commissary shopping privileges.

A Provision to lift the 12-times-per-year limit on shopping by reservists tentatively has been killed by a house-vote conference committee working out differences on the 1996 defense authorization bill.

A provision lifting the limit was included in the Senate version of the 1996 defense authorization bill, but not in the House Version. Negotiators agreed to take the provision out of the final bill. However, the full bill will not be completed for several weeks, and the decision could not be reversed.

Sources on Capitol Hill said the provision already has died in the conference committee, although Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), chairman of the



Senate Armed Services Committee, reportedly had dug in his heels in support of the provision.

A spokesman for the Senate committee said she couldn't comment on the fate of the shopping privileges until work on the bill was completed.

In a separate move, members of Congress directed the General Accounting Office, the auditing arm of Congress, to study the costs and other effects of increasing access to commissaries.

The request on a study is part of the report accompanying the defense appropriations bill, which was approved Sept. 22. The appropriations bill provides funds for defense programs, while the authorization bill provides authority for them.

The authorization bill also is expected to request a study of how much it would cost to expand commissary privileges. Pentagon officials have said there would be no cost to the taxpayers in expanding reservists' commissary privileges; grocery lobbyists have said it would cost taxpayers millions.

Although the House two years ago made a move to expand the privileges for reservists, this year House members opposed the idea after being pressured by civilian grocers.

Not all lawmakers oppose it, however. A spokesman for Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R-Calif.), chairman of the military personnel subcommittee of the House National Security Committee, said Dornan hasn't given up on the expanded privileges, and will try to address them again next year.

The grocers' lobby, the Food Marketing Institute, has pressed its case with newspapers around the county.

## Commissaries offer many ways to save

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Although your Commissaries privileges probably won't be expanded, they still provide an excellent way to save money.. Commissaries provide an outstanding benefit for Army families by selling merchandise to authorized customers at an average savings of 23.4 cents for every dollar spent.

In addition, manufacturers often provide voluntary reductions when they reduce the price of a product below its regular commissary price. But your commissary also offers other ways to save.

Products that are damaged or near their expiration date may be sold if military food inspectors determine that the items are still fit for consumption. When this happens, the product is usually offered for a limited time at up to 50 percent off.

Check the commissary's freezer section for marked down-meat and poultry items and the marked down section for semipermanent packaged and canned goods.

You'll also find big savings on items to be discontinued and one-time special buys. Check the end-of-aisle displays for these special values.

In addition, the Defense Commissary Agency conducts worldwide and regional sales events that feature discounts on many items throughout the store, including the DeCA Anniversary Sale going on in October in observance of the fourth anniversary of the agency's establishment.

Shoppers should bring their coupons and enjoy even greater savings on the many products that are on sale. DeCA is committed to offering their customers many ways to save with caring service.

## Space--Available policy clarified for Guard, Reserve

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The reserve component travel policy for space-available flights has not changed. The bottom line is while the military services have not made signing up easier, they have not repeated not-changed travel eligibility. The following Space-Available information applies to the Guard and Reserve:

- Authorized Guard and Reserve soldiers and authorized members entitled to retired pay at age 60 are eligible to travel in the continental United States and directly between CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa (Guam or American Samoa travelers may transit Hawaii or Alaska); or travel within Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Active Guard/Reserve members must possess **DD Form 2, (Green) Armed Forces of United States Identification Card (Reserve)** and **DD Form 1853 (Verification of Guard and Reserve Status for Eligibility)**. Retired Guard and Reserve members who are entitled to retired pay at age 60 must also have a DD FORM 2 (Red) along with a notice of retirement eligibility (provided by the member's unit).
- Travel is for the Guard and Reserve member only; family-member travel is not authorized. However, family members may travel with their sponsors after the retired reserve component sponsor is issued the DD Form 2 (Blue) U.S. Armed Forces Identification Card (Retired). Family member travel is

authorized only between CONUS and overseas areas. Family member travel within CONUS is not authorized.

## Army Reserve in Transition

The mission of the Army Reserve as directed by Congress, is "To provide trained units and qualified persons available for active duty in the Armed Forces, in time of war or national emergency and at such as the national security requires."

Today's Army Reserve has proven itself to be a successful, essential partner in America's Army. The Army increasingly looks to the Army Reserve's unique capabilities and skills for use in contingencies; peace operations; peacetime training of America's Army; support of major operational missions, support of overseas operations; military-to-military contacts around the world; and humanitarian and domestic support missions. The process of transition from a Cold War era force to the Army of the next century involves three major efforts:

- Downsizing to a Selected Reserve end strength of 208,000 for the Army Reserve by Fiscal Year 1999.
- A transfer of forces between the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard that realigns Reserve Component roles and missions;

A command and control reorganization that reduces Army Reserve management overhead and focus on the new missions that we and America's Army are facing.

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The net result of all this will be to strengthen the Army, especially in several particular critical areas. The Army Reserve will have 43 percent of all combat support/combat service support (CS/CSS) forces, including

- All enemy prisoner of war military police (MP) structure and 48 percent of all MP structure;
- Management of most of the reserve component (RC) medical structure;
- All petroleum supply units and direct support and general support supply and service units and management of all collection and classification units;
- All echelons above corps and signal units;
- 97 percent of civil affairs and 76 percent of psychological operations units.

## Major Rondem is Promoted

Debra C. Rondem was promoted from Major to Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army Reserves with an effective date of September 14, 1995. Lieutenant Colonel Rondem is the Commander of Detachment 2-7, Region III of the Selective Service System, Marietta, Georgia. Detachment 2-7 is responsible for the Local Boards for the State of Georgia. Lieutenant Colonel Rondem lives in Alpharetta, Georgia and is employed as Drug Free Coordinator for the Forsyth County Board of Education and is married to Ronnie B. Rondem who is a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. They have a son, Christopher, who attends Crabapple Crossing Elementary School. LTC Rodem is the daughter of A. Harry Conrad Jr., Major General, (Retired) and Mrs. Joyce Conrad is a former Commander of the 75th Maneuver Area Command, the previous designation for the 75th Division (Exercises). Both Lieutenant Colonel Rodmen and Colonel Rondem are previous members of this unit also.

## MUTA NEWS

### The Next Scheduled Drills for the 75th

HQ	2-3 DEC	6-7 JAN
1ST BDE	2-3 DEC	20-21 JAN
2ND BDE	2-3 DEC	6-7 JAN
3RD BDE	16-17 DEC	20-21 JAN
4TH BDE	2-3 DEC	6-7 JAN
5TH BDE	2-3 DEC	6-7 JAN

### Uniform Class "A"